GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:493
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
INVESTMENT IN IRRIGATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is urgent need to increase public investment in irrigation and water management to increase agricultural out- put; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to bring about an improvement in the resource position in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.493 FOR 27.8.2001

(a) & (b) As per the Agriculture Policy adopted by the Government of India, the agriculture output is required to grow at the rate of 4% per annum against an average growth rate of about 2.5% achieved during the last five decades. The envisaged increase in agriculture output would in turn require covering about 20 million hectares under irrigation in the next fifteen years. The share of investment in irrigation and water management in the State Plans has been declining over the years. There is need to reverse this trend in order to complete all on-going irrigation projects, supporting renovation and modernization of projects for stabilization of irrigation benefits from old projects, restoration and rehabilitation of traditional water harvesting systems and developing new resources. The Government of India has been supplementing the resource position of the States by way of providing loans and grants under the Command Area Development Programme since 1974-75 and under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97. The Government of India is also facilitating turning over of irrigation projects to farmers' associations for their operation and maintenance and bringing higher efficiency in application of water, encouraging institutional funding for all types of irrigation projects and their management, facilitating external funding for consolidation and management of water resources projects.